

REMARKS

Claims 19, 21 and 23 through 28 remain in the patent application. Claims 1 through 18 have been cancelled. Claim 19 is in independent form.

Claim 19 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over United States Patent 6,290,361, issued to Berzin (the '361 reference) in view of a Japanese reference having publication number JP 03284450 A (the '450 reference). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The '361 reference discloses a system for cleaning a mirror secured to the side of a motor vehicle. The cleaning system is a compressed air system that pushes air into the mirror surface to remove water and dirt that accumulates thereon. The nozzle includes a plurality of openings extending around the edges of the mirror surface. The openings for the nozzle are spaced apart from the mirror surface. Further, the '361 reference does not disclose an oblong channel.

The '450 reference discloses an oblong channel for dispensing air over a mirror surface. Again, while this may be true, the opening does not extend through portions of two surfaces, but only in the corners.

Claim 19, as amended to clarify the invention, claims a cleaning assembly for a mirror assembly having a mirror with at least two edges. The cleaning assembly includes a nozzle that has a nozzle opening created by the nozzle and the exterior surface. The liquid that is dispensed therefrom flows immediately onto the exterior surface, minimizing turbulence. Further, the nozzle opening includes an oblong channel for receiving a portion of each of the first and second edges thereagainst. The cleaning assembly sends a liquid over the mirror surface at a location that spans portions of two edges of the mirror.

While the combination of the '361 and the '450 references may disclose a system that shoots air over multiple edges of the mirror surface, it would do so with only oblong channels at the corners, and not along multiple sides. Further, only the corner channels would abut the exterior surface.

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In contradistinction, claim 19, as amended, clearly claims a cleaning system that directs fluid out over the mirror surface from two different edges of the mirror surface. This dual direction of dispersion, assisted by the openings being defined in part by the exterior surface itself, helps clean the mirror surface by send liquid across a larger area of the exterior surface in a non-turbulent manner that helps maximize the usefulness of the liquid. Gases used by the prior art references will not act the same way and require different nozzle opening configurations.

Therefore, Applicant believes claim 19, as amended to clarify the invention, and all claims depending therefrom overcome the rejections set forth by the Examiner with regard to the '361 and the '450 references.

It is respectfully submitted that, should the examiner enter this amendment, this patent application will be in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment or patent application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
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